



INAUGURATION BY
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA
THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT PETER (A.D. 772)
SUNDAY 9th APRIL, 1972

Bexhill Museum
No.



**Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra
the Honourable Mrs. Angus Ogilvy**

HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

The grant of the Charter to found and endow a church at Bexhill in AD 772 by King Offa II of Mercia, who had conquered the South Saxons, is the starting point of the town's history, and St. Peter's became the instrument of ecclesiastical and civic development, with educational, social and welfare services. For this reason the 1200th anniversary in 1972 is a time for commemoration by the whole borough.

After the Norman Conquest the Saxon manor of Bexhill was taken from the Church but later recovered and held by the See of Chichester until Queen Elizabeth I acquired it and gave the estate to the Sackville family. In the 19th century it passed by marriage to the De La Warr family whose 7th Earl began the development of the seaside resort which was spectacularly continued by his son and has continued to be assisted by the 9th Earl who is Lord of the Manor.

All the other Anglican parishes in Bexhill were once part of St. Peter's which founded the first local schools and whose Vestry exercised civil powers until 75 years ago. The influence of the Church on almost every aspect of the town's growth derives directly from Offa's grant 1200 years ago.

1200th CHARTER CELEBRATIONS

PATRONS

His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, E.M., K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., T.D.

The Right Honourable the Earl De La Warr, P.C., G.B.E.

The Right Honourable the Lord Buckhurst

The Lord Bishop of Chichester

The Lord Bishop of Arundel and Brighton

The Reverend Leslie D. Weatherhead, C.B.E.

Sir Geoffrey Harmsworth, Bart., F.S.A.

Harry Riley Esq., O.B.E.

Mrs. Joyce Alexander, M.B.E.

Bryant Godman Irvine Esq., M.P.

JOINT PRESIDENTS

The Mayor of Bexhill,

The Rector of Bexhill,

Alderman W. G. Sansom

The Reverend Canon M. D. Townroe, R.D.

ADVISORY PANEL

Councillor D. A. Kimber
(*Chairman*)

Mr. L. J. Bartley

The Reverend E. Heddle

Mr. R. A. Lockwood
(*Hon. General Secretary*)

Mr. G. M. Mitchell
(*Hon. Treasurer*)

Mr. V. S. Nargang
(*Hon. Assistant Secretary*)

Mr. R. S. Robinson

Mr. R. J. Trott

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. J. Dowling

Mr. C. B. Evans

Mr. P. Evenden

Mr. J. Marten

Mrs. T. Mayhew

Mr. H. A. Newson-Smith

Mr. D. J. Pink

Mrs. W. A. Sole

Mr. J. Womack

Mr. J. F. G. Williams
(*Vice-chairman*)

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

3.00 p.m. Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra the Honourable Mrs. Angus Ogilvy, will arrive by helicopter of The Queen's Flight landing on the lawn adjoining De La Warr Pavilion.

Her Royal Highness will be accompanied by:
Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the County of Sussex, His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, E.M., K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., T.D.

and

Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard, Lady in Waiting

The Lord Lieutenant will present:

His Worship the Mayor of Bexhill,
Alderman William George Sansom
the Chief Constable, Sussex Constabulary,
Mr. T. C. Williams

The Mayor will ask leave to present:

the Mayoress,
Mrs. W. G. Sansom
the Town Clerk,
Mr. Roland S. Robinson, and Mrs. Robinson

Her Royal Highness will walk to the De La Warr Pavilion and leave from the main entrance by car for St. Peter's Church Community Centre

Mayoral Car The Mayor and Mayoress,
 The Town Clerk and Mrs. Robinson

Police Car

Royal Car Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra
 The Lord Lieutenant
 The Lady in Waiting

Route Marina, Sea Road, Upper Sea Road, and Church Street

3.15 p.m. On arrival at the Community Centre the Mayor will accompany Her Royal Highness into the New Hall and will ask leave to present:

Patrons of the 1200th Charter Celebrations

Lord Buckhurst and Lady Buckhurst
Mr. Harry Riley, O.B.E., Hon. Freeman
Mrs. Joyce O. Alexander, M.B.E., Hon. Freeman
Mr. Bryant Godman Irvine, M.P., and Mrs. Godman Irvine

and the

Co-President of the 1200th Charter Celebrations

the Reverend Canon M. D. Townroe,
Rector of Bexhill and Rural Dean of Battle, and Mrs. Townroe

The Rector will ask leave to present:

The Churchwardens

Mr. H. Gadsden and Mrs. Gadsden
Mr. H. A. Newson-Smith and Mrs. Newson-Smith

Assistant Priest, The Parish Church of St. Peter

The Reverend D. G. Cluer and Mrs. Cluer

Representative of the Free Churches

The Reverend E. Heddle and Mrs. Heddle

Representative of the Roman Catholic Church

The Reverend B. Wymes,
Private Secretary to the Lord Bishop of Arundel and Brighton

Representative of the Anglican Communion

The Archdeacon of Hastings
the Venerable G. Mayfield and Mrs. Mayfield

Patrons of the 1200th Charter Celebrations

The Reverend Dr. L. D. Weatherhead
The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Arundel and Brighton
The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Chichester
and Mrs. R. P. Wilson



*The Reverend Canon M. D. Townroe
Rector of Bexhill and Rural Dean of Battle*



EXPLANATION OF THE CHARTER SYMBOL

At the heart and centre of the symbol is the Cross because the Charter Celebration Year will be concerned with every aspect of our Christian heritage stretching back over 1200 years.

Woven around the Cross are the Keys of St. Peter because this heritage finds its known starting point in the granting of a Charter in AD 772 by King Offa the Great for the building and endowing of the Parish Church.

The Crown above expresses both our debt to royal favour in the past and our loyalty to our present Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth.

The use of the Crest of the Coat of Arms of the Borough declares the intention that these celebrations should be shared in by all citizens of the Borough.

The circle or Garter, symbol of unity and eternity, expresses the desire that the Year may foster civic loyalties and a stronger sense of community among all citizens through the shared resolve to "hold fast to all that is good".

3.20 p.m. The Borough Macebearer will lead His Worship The Mayor and Mayoress, Lord Lieutenant and Lady in Waiting in procession to their places in Church.

The Church Wardens will escort the robed Clergy to the Choir Vestry.

The Rector will escort Her Royal Highness to her seat and the Service will begin.

SERVICE OF PRAISE AND DEDICATION

Conducted by the Rector
THE REVEREND CANON M. D. TOWNROE, R.D.

Preacher
THE LORD BISHOP OF CHICHESTER,
THE RIGHT REVEREND R. P. WILSON, D.D.

Organist and Choirmaster
Mr. Jonathan Marten, L.T.C.L., A.R.C.M., A.T.C.L.

Assistant Organist
Mr. Alex Thomson

Organ music before the Service

Berceuse	<i>Vierne</i>
Prelude and Fugue on B.A.C.H.	<i>Liszt</i>
Prelude and Fugue in G major	<i>Bach</i>

ORDER OF SERVICE

All shall stand to receive Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, and the choir shall then enter, leading the congregation in the singing of the Charter Celebration Year Hymn:

Words: G. M. Jackson

Tune: Adapted by W. H. Monk, from a Chorale by J. Cruger, 1598-1662

Where daily light came streaming
From far wide eastern skies,
When woods and grass came merging
From where the sea shore lies,
Our hilltop site was given.
This sacred piece of earth,
Whereon to set a beacon
Of faith and love and truth.

For Light from God had reached here,
Through far off eastern lands,
And Saxon stones were laid here
With strong and skilful hands;
And every age has rendered
Its beauteous gifts and art,
Enabling all who entered
To play their own small part.

So praise and thanks and glory
To God, the God of Light,
For words that told His story
And lit the paths of right;
For blessings and for mercies,
For grace and power untold.
And down a dozen centuries
His purposes unfold.

And we, may we, in our age
Form rays of light from Him,
Blended with faith and courage
To pierce the clouds and storms;
To add new power and honour
To deed and word and thought;
And show each child the wonder
And healing He has brought.

Alongside science and progress
May His great love still shine,
With purity and boldness
Through this His hallowed shrine;
Through vows of heart and spirit,
Through music and through prayer,
From altar and from pulpit
For each and all to share.

Equipped thus with His virtue,
Aware of world-wide need,
May each one so continue
To work and intercede
For justice and salvation,
For peaceful ways of right;
As bells peal exultation
Towards eternal Light.

The Rector shall say :

Let us in this service of praise and dedication lift up our hearts to Almighty God in thankful remembrance of His righteous servants, by whose noble liberality and steadfast witness through twelve hundred years His glory has been advanced and this place has become a holy shrine of Christian faith and worship; and let us pray that through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we may be made worthy of our heritage, and in the power of the Holy Spirit be renewed in His service.

All shall remain standing and join in the singing of Psalm 100 :

O be joyful in the Lord / all ye / lands:
Serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his / presence / with a / song.
Be ye sure that the / Lord he is / God:
It is he that hath made us * and not we ourselves,
We are his people and the / sheep of / his / pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his / courts with / praise:
Be thankful unto him * and speak / good of / his / Name.
For the Lord is gracious * his mercy is / ever / lasting:
And his truth endureth from gener / ation to / gener / ation.
Glory be to the Father and / to the / Son:
And / to the / Holy / Ghost,
As it was in the beginning * is now and / ever / shall be:
World without / end. / A- / men.

The congregation shall be seated and the first lesson from Holy Scripture shall be read by the Reverend Edmund Heddle, Minister of Beulah Baptist Church, Bexhill, and Chairman of the Ministry Main Committee of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

The First Book of the Chronicles, Chapter 29, Verses 1-14

All shall stand for the singing of

Gloria in Excelsis Deo *Darke in F*

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Congregation shall be seated and the second lesson from Holy Scripture shall be read by the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, The Right Reverend Michael Bowen.

The epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Philippians 4, 4-9

This Office Hymn from the 7th Century shall then be sung

Tune: Westminster Abbey

CHRIST is made the sure Foundation
And the precious Corner-stone,
Who, the two walls underlying,
Bound in each, binds both in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.

All that dedicated City,
Dearly loved by God on high,
In exultant jubilation
Pours perpetual melody:
God the One, and God the Trinal,
Singing everlastingly.

To this temple, where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
With thy wonted loving-kindness
Hear thy people as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls for ay.

Laud and honour to the Father;
Laud and honour to the Son;
Laud and honour to the Spirit;
Ever Three and ever One;
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run.

The Congregation shall join in thanksgiving and intercession

Let us thank God for the gift of Offa, King of Mercia

Minister: I will worship toward thy holy temple;

Answer: And will sing praises unto thy name.

O God, by whose providence we celebrate the foundation of this church: Send down upon us, we beseech thee, thy heavenly blessing: and, because holiness becometh thine house for ever, make us living temples, holy and acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us thank God for the witness of the Church through the centuries.

Minister: The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

Answer: The memory of the just is blessed.

Almighty God, who dost from age to age revive and inspire thy Church, we thank thee for the flame of faith which has guided and strengthened thy people in this place during twelve hundred years; grant that we, being mindful of thy great goodness, may be worthy of the rich heritage which thou hast given us, and with zeal and courage, faithfulness and love, show forth our gratitude in the service of our town, our nation and the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for our Queen and Country.

Minister: Commit thy way unto the Lord.

Answer: And put thy trust in him.

O Lord our Governor, we humbly pray thee to look with favour upon our country and to visit us with thy salvation. Graciously bless thy servant our Queen and every member of the royal family. Give wisdom and courage to our leaders; prosper the work of thy church in our land; and so turn the hearts of our people to thyself that thy name may be exalted among us as our mighty God and Saviour, for the glory of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for our Town.

Minister: Behold how good and joyful a thing it is, brethren:

Answer: To dwell together in unity.

O God, our Father, whose will is our peace, strengthen and sustain the life of this Town. Forgive our sins and negligencies; exalt our purposes; purify our aims; free us from selfish desires; may we be of one mind and heart in thy service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All shall remain kneeling while the choir sing this prayer, set to the music of Henry Loosemore (d.1670)

O Lord, increase our faith, strengthen us and confirm us in thy true faith; endue us with wisdom, charity, chastity and patience in all our adversities. Sweet Jesus, say Amen.

All shall stand and sing this hymn of self-offering:

Words: J. C. Winslow

Irish Traditional Melody

Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song,
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find.
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your Word.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart;
Your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to cheer me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if e'er I disown you I stumble and fall;
But, sworn in glad service your word to obey,
I walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

The Sermon
shall be preached by

THE RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF CHICHESTER

All shall join in this final hymn of praise:

Words: Bishop W. W. How

Tune: R. Vaughan-Williams

For all the Saints who from their labours rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confest,
Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest.

Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear their one true Light.

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold

O blest communion! fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

All shall kneel for the Blessing, preceded by this concluding prayer from the 6th Century Gallican Sacramentary:

Grant to thy servants, O God, to be set on fire with thy love, to be strengthened by thy power, to be illuminated by thy Spirit, to be filled with thy grace, and to go forward by thine aid; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing

The National Anthem

All:

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the Queen!

Choir only unaccompanied:

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign;
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice
God save the Queen!

All:

Nor on this land alone—
But be God's mercies known
From shore to shore.
Lord, make the nations see
That men should brothers be,
And form one family
The wide world O'er.

The Congregation are requested to remain in their seats until directed to move by the Sidesmen.

Retiring Collection for the St. Peter's Charter Celebration Year Fund.

(The first hymn was specially written for use at St. Peter's during this year by a parishioner Miss Gwendoline Jackson, the second and fourth hymns are from the English Hymnal, A. R. Mowbray & Co., and the third is from '100 Hymns for today', William Clowes and Son.)

The Rector will escort Her Royal Highness to the Rectory accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant, the Lady in Waiting and Mrs. Townroe

The Borough Macebearer will lead the Mayor and Mayoress
and
the Town Clerk and Mrs. Robinson by the North door to the Community Centre

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman J. Baker and Mrs. J. Baker, J.P., will lead Charter Patrons, Clergy, Members and Chief Officers of the Borough Council, Members of the Charter Celebration Committee and their ladies from the South door of the Church, via the Lychgate, Church Street to the Manor House

Music in the Manor Gardens by Sussex Brass. Conductor: Tim Lord

4.30 p.m. On return from the Rectory, Her Royal Highness will inspect
a Group of Cadets of the Bexhill-on-Sea Centre The British Red Cross
Society

His Worship the Mayor will then escort Her Royal Highness to the
preserved remains of the 12th century Manor House accompanied by
the Mayoress, the Lord Lieutenant, the Lady in Waiting, the Town Clerk
and Mrs. Robinson, the Rector and Mrs. Townroe

At the Old Manor House Her Royal Highness will unveil a
Commemorative Ironwork Panel
designed by Mr. D. A. Kimber and presented to the town by the maker,
Mr. John Brodey

The Mayor will present
Mr. John Brodey, Architectural Ironworker
Councillor D. A. Kimber, Heraldic Artist, and Mrs. Kimber

The Mayor will ask leave to present:

Members and Officers of the Borough Council and their ladies

Councillor H. Morgan and Mrs. Morgan
Councillor E. Haynes and Mrs. Haynes
Councillor W. A. Sole and Mrs. Sole
Councillor W. J. Foster and Mrs. Foster
Councillor B. White and Mrs. White
Councillor Mrs. E. Kimber and Miss V. Carr
Councillor I. A. Brampton and Mrs. Brampton
Councillor R. W. Clarke and Mrs. Clarke
Councillor P. W. Cranwell Child and Mrs. Cranwell Child
Councillor Mrs. M. D. Traice and Mr. Traice
Councillor E. Waite and Mrs. Waite
Councillor A. C. Tugwell and Miss D. B. Tugwell
Councillor Mrs. A. M. Robinson and Mr. Robinson
Borough Treasurer, Mr. R. H. Mead and Mrs. Mead
Borough Engineer and Surveyor Mr. A. G. Whiteside and
Mrs. Whiteside
Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. K. Butterfield, T.D., and
Mrs. Butterfield
Director of Parks and Cemetery, Mr. C. E. Hudson and Mrs. Hudson

Members of the Charter Co-ordinating Committee and their ladies

Mr. J. Dowling and Mrs. Dowling
Mr. C. B. Evans and Mrs. Evans
Mr. P. Evenden and Mrs. Evenden
Mr. J. Marten and Mrs. Marten
Mrs. T. Mayhew and Mr. Mayhew
Mr. G. M. Mitchell and Mrs. Mitchell
Mr. V. S. Nargang and Mrs. Nargang
Mr. D. J. Pink and Mrs. Pink
Mr. R. J. Trott and Mrs. Trott
Mr. J. F. G. Williams and Mrs. Williams
Mr. J. Womack and Mrs. Womack

Her Royal Highness will then enter the Manor Barn and the Mayor will ask leave to present:

the Deputy Mayor

Alderman John Baker and Mrs. J. Baker, J.P.

the Director of Entertainments and Hon. General Secretary of the Charter Celebrations Committee

Mr. R. A. Lockwood and Mrs. Lockwood

Aldermen and Chairmen of Committees of the Borough Council

Alderman A. S. J. Stevens, Chairman of Old Town Preservation Society

Alderman E. L. Lillicrap, Chairman of Social Services Committee

Alderman E. Corke, Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee and Mrs. Corke

Alderman Mrs. M. E. Ackland

Councillor E. T. Johnson, Chairman of Planning Committee and Mrs. Johnson

Councillor L. Guilmant, Chairman of Amenities Committee and Mrs. Guilmant

Councillor F. L. Chaplin, J.P., Chairman of Staff and General Purposes Committee and Mrs. Chaplin

The Editor of Bexhill-on-Sea Observer

Mr. L. J. Bartley and Mrs. Bartley



Alderman W. G. Sansom, Mayor 1971-1972

NOTES ON THE BOROUGH ARMS

The following notes are a description of the quartering and indicate the historical sources from which the Arms are designed:

1. The Martlets and border are taken from the Arms of the County of East Sussex.
2. The Mitre is that of the See of Chichester, which for a long period held ownership of the Manor of Bexhill.
3. The Estoile Sable is the crest of the Sackville Family.
4. The Demi-Lion and the Demi-hulk of a Ship are representative of the Cinque Ports.
5. The Mallard is representative of the Brassey family.

The motto "Sol et Salubritas" means "Sun and Health".

Her Royal Highness will leave the Manor Barn by the East balcony overlooking the gardens for a brief visit to an Exhibition of Period Costumes in the nearby Manor Library

5.30 p.m. Her Royal Highness will depart by car from the Manor Car Park, De La Warr Road, Upper Sea Road and Marina

Her Royal Highness will leave by helicopter of The Queen's Flight from the seafront lawn adjoining De La Warr Pavilion

7.30 p.m. In the Concert Hall
De La Warr Pavilion



Bexhill Corporation
in association with
British Broadcasting Corporation
present a

CHARTER ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



BBC
CONCERT
ORCHESTRA
(Leader: Arthur Leavins)
Conductor in Chief
ASHLEY LAWRENCE

Soloists: Cynthia Glover (Soprano)
Rowland Jones (Tenor)

Produced by Tony Philpott
Introduced by Robin Boyle

(Part 1 to be broadcast on Radio 2)

